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**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**of the**  
**SOUTH CAROLINA**  
**VOCATIONAL**  
**REHABILITATION**  
**DEPARTMENT**

**Fiscal Year 1975-76**



**J. S. Dusenbury**  
**Commissioner**

ANNUAL REPORT  
of the  
**SOUTH CAROLINA  
VOCATIONAL  
REHABILITATION  
DEPARTMENT**

**Fiscal Year 1975-76**



**J. S. Dusenbury  
Commissioner**

## LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

The Honorable James B. Edwards  
Governor of South Carolina  
The State House  
Columbia, South Carolina

Dear Sir:

I hereby submit to the General Assembly, through you, the annual report of the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department for the fiscal year 1976, in compliance with the 1962 Code of Laws of South Carolina, as amended.

Behind the statistics found in this report are thousands of once disabled men and women who have been helped to have better lives through the services of Vocational Rehabilitation.

Yours very truly,

J. S. Dusenbury  
Commissioner



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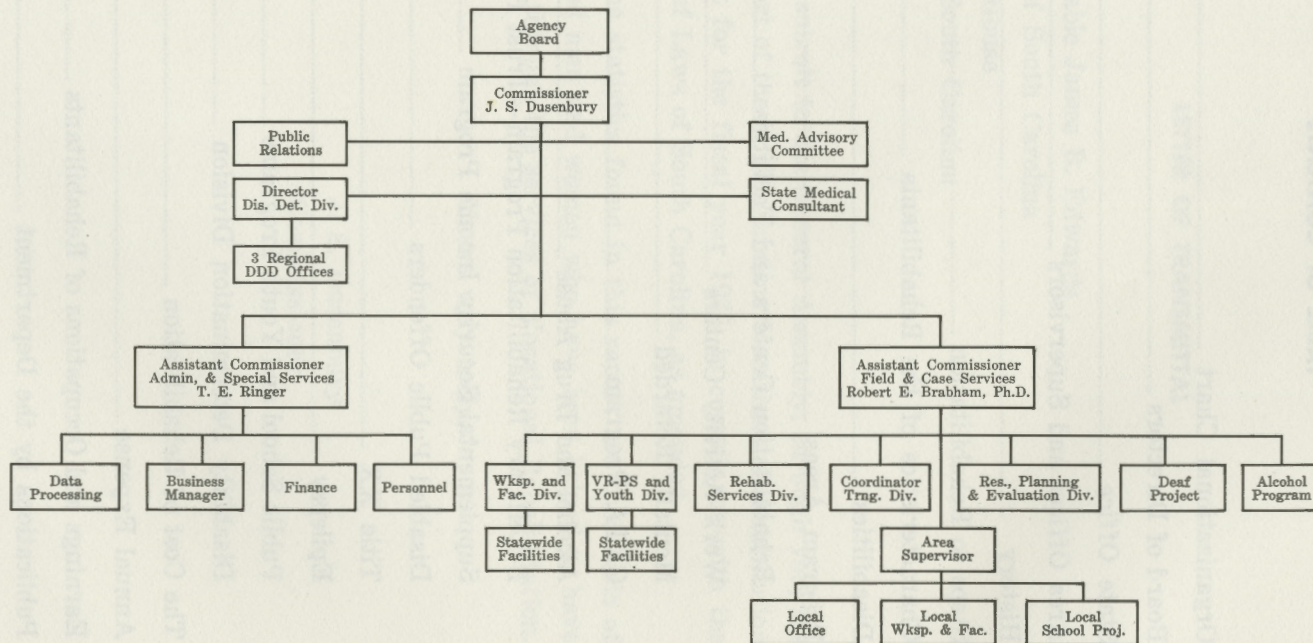
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# **SOUTH CAROLINA VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION DEPARTMENT**

**P. O. BOX 4945**

**COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29240**



## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Workshops and Facilities

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## AREA OFFICES AND SUPERVISORS

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W. B. Creel .....34 George Street, Charleston

Ronald W. Parker .....100 Main Street, Columbia

John C. Winn .....203 Laurel Street, Conway

H. B. Powell, Jr. ....1550 West Evans Street, Florence

.....102 Screven Street, Georgetown

O. D. Parker.....Academy Building, 2 Hampton Avenue,  
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W. J. Chapman .....328 S. Fifth Street, Hartsville

John A. Lybrand .....396 St. Paul Street, N.E., Orangeburg

Wehman Sieling .....756 Cherry Road, Rock Hill

C. M. Isetts .....864 N. Church Street, Spartanburg

Emmet W. Tolson, Jr. ....City-County Office Building, Sumter

William B. Rogers .....Hiers Professional Center, Walterboro



## HISTORY

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department has placed 145,114 disabled people in gainful employment since the beginning of the rehabilitation program in South Carolina.

The vocational rehabilitation program started in South Carolina in 1927 as a division of the South Carolina Department of Education, with one full-time and two part-time employees. It was not until 1957 that the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department was established as a separate state agency.

The Department has grown to over 1,000 employees with 15 area offices and 9 satellite offices to serve the clients in all locations of the state. Workshop and evaluation centers are also located within other state institutions, as well as near area offices. Mobile evaluation units provide services to handicapped persons living in rural areas of South Carolina. Services have been improved and expanded by setting up specialized facilities in cooperation with public and private groups and organizations. Coordinated services in special facilities are considered to be one of the main keys to enabling thousands of severely disabled to be released from economic imprisonment.

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 placed emphasis on services to the severely disabled. These cases usually require a wider range of comprehensive rehabilitation services over an extended period of time; consequently many of these cases are quite expensive. At this same time, increases in public funds were increasingly difficult to justify due to economic circumstances. As a result, increases in the rehabilitation program have begun to level off, and there is no longer an increase year after year in the numbers served through the rehabilitation program. Despite all efforts to reduce costs, to utilize other methods of payments, and to become even more efficient and effective in the delivery of services, recent economic events have had serious implications for the handicapped citizens of our state.

## STEPS TO REHABILITATION

There are seven basic steps to the process of rehabilitation, each performing a vital function in changing the client from a burden on society to a useful and productive citizen.

*Diagnostic Services*—Through comprehensive procedures, an evaluation of the client's medical, social, psychological and vocational needs can be determined.

*Counseling and Guidance*—Counseling is a continuous service provided all clients throughout the entire rehabilitation process. The counselor develops, coordinates and integrates services according to the individual needs of his client, his interests and aptitudes and the employment outlook in his community.

*Physical Restoration*—Medical, surgical, dental or psychiatric treatment and hospitalization are given when needed to restore the disabled person to the best possible physical and mental condition. Many times, the handicap is completely removed by treatment.

*Artificial Appliances*—Limbs, glasses, hearing aids and other kinds of artificial aids are provided when needed. This service is based on financial need.

*Training*—The disabled person has a much better chance of getting a job if he has a work skill; therefore, many disabled people are trained or retrained in skills that they can perform despite their physical condition. Necessary maintenance, transportation and supplies are provided based on financial need.

*Placement*—No client is considered rehabilitated until he is placed in a job suited to his vocational and physical ability . . . this is the goal of all rehabilitation services.

Not all clients require all services, but professional counseling, evaluation and guidance are provided ALL clients in order that they may have the opportunity to achieve their maximum potential.

*Follow-up*—Every client receives follow-up to insure that his rehabilitation is successful and that both he and his employer are satisfied.



### CHARACTERISTICS OF THE REHABILITANTS

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department was successful in rehabilitating 11,900 clients during 1976.

At the time of referral:

79.4% were unemployed

12.8% were in tax supported institutions

55.6% were dependent on family and friends for livelihood

66.8% had less than 12th grade education

Of the 11,900 men and women rehabilitated 49.1% were male and 54.5% were white.

### DISABILITIES

Rehabilitation of the handicapped has paid off as the disabled become productive. Services provided by the Vocational Rehabilitation Department are extended to persons afflicted with many different types of disabilities.

The 11,900 rehabilitants served by Vocational Rehabilitation in 1976 had these disabilities:

Type of Disability	Number of Rehabilitants
Blood Diseases .....	27
Speech Impairment .....	49
Absence of Limbs .....	144
Epilepsy and Nervous Disorders .....	153
Respiratory Diseases .....	173
Cancer .....	201
Other Disabling Conditions .....	341
Hearing Impairments .....	426
Allergy, Endocrine Disorders .....	441
Heart and Circulatory Conditions .....	601
Genito-Urinary System Disorders .....	695
Visual Impairments .....	955
Digestive System Disorders .....	1,239
Orthopedic Deformity .....	1,313
Mental Retardation .....	1,795
Mental Illness .....	3,347

## PROGRAM AREAS

### Rehabilitation Centers and Facilities

The rehabilitation centers and facilities of the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department are designed to assist in the coordination, development and provision of comprehensive rehabilitation services to the handicapped citizens of the State of South Carolina.

A vocational rehabilitation center has as its main emphasis the provision of comprehensive evaluation and adjustment training services. Vocational evaluation, including I.Q., aptitude, interest and dexterity testing as well as personal, social and work adjustment status and functioning is provided by the staff of the facility. The center also provides comprehensive adjustment training services which may include personal grooming classes, World of Work groups, activities of daily living classes, work adjustment through the utilization of contract activities, academic classes and other services as required.

The Department operates a network of rehabilitation centers located in strategic areas throughout the state. These thirteen community-based centers are placing emphasis on the rehabilitation of the severely disabled with an array of services geared to meet the individual needs of the handicapped clients. Four new rehabilitation centers have been completed and another is now under construction. The new centers are located in Charleston, Orangeburg, Walterboro and Sumter.

Statewide facilities are available generally to provide services to all disability-groups. There are also facilities of a statewide nature which are specialized facilities and projects have been developed to provide rehabilitation services to a particular type of handicapped individual.

In addition, the Department staffs and operates two motorized Vocational Rehabilitation Guidance Units, equipped with Singer Evaluation Systems and other necessary equipment and supplies. These units are located in areas of the state so that rehabilitation services can be carried to the handicapped in rural-isolated areas.



**Evaluation, Training and Workshop Facilities:**

- \* Aiken Vocational Rehabilitation Center
- \* Anderson Vocational Rehabilitation Center
- Charleston Vocational Rehabilitation Center
- Columbia Vocational Rehabilitation Center
- \* Conway Vocational Rehabilitation Center
- Greenville Vocational Rehabilitation Center
- \* Greenwood Vocational Rehabilitation Center
- \* Orangeburg Vocational Rehabilitation Center
- \* Pee Dee Vocational Rehabilitation Center, Florence
- \* Rock Hill Vocational Rehabilitation Center
- Spartanburg Vocational Rehabilitation Center
- \* Sumter Vocational Rehabilitation Center
- \* Walterboro Vocational Rehabilitation Center
- \* Work activity centers for the severely mentally retarded in operation within these facilities.

**Statewide Facilities:**

Alcohol and Drug Addiction Center, Columbia  
 Holmesview Alcoholic Center, Greenville  
 Palmetto Center, Florence  
 Cedar Spring Facility for the Deaf, Spartanburg  
 Evaluation and Training Facility for the Deaf, Opportunity School, West Columbia  
 Vocational Rehabilitation Evaluation Center, Opportunity School, West Columbia  
 Dill Beckman Vocational Rehabilitation Facility, Ladson  
 Midlands Rehabilitation Facility, Columbia  
 Whitten Village Rehabilitation Facility, Clinton  
 Medical University Hospital Facilities, Charleston
 

- Psychiatric Rehabilitation
- Speech and Hearing Facility
- Cardio-Vascular Facility
- Peripheral Vascular Facility
- Epilepsy Rehabilitation Facility
- Referral Unit

 Public Offender Facilities
 

- Reception and Evaluation Center, Columbia
- Central Correctional Institution, Columbia

Manning Correctional Institution, Columbia  
 Pre-release Center, Columbia  
 Correctional Institution for Women, Columbia  
 Wateree Correctional Institution, Boykin  
 Blue Ridge Community Pre-Release Center,  
 Greenville

Macdougall Youth Correction Center, Ridgeville  
 State Park Health Center, Columbia  
 Crafts-Farrow Hospital Rehabilitation Facility, Columbia  
 State Hospital Rehabilitation Facility, Columbia

#### **Specialized Rehabilitation Facilities and Projects:**

Hearing and Speech Center, Columbia  
 Evaluation Facility for Mental Health, Spartanburg  
 Cardio-Vascular Rehabilitation Facility, Greenville  
 Marshall Pickens Evaluation Facility, Greenville

#### **Work Activity Centers**

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department and the South Carolina Department of Mental Retardation have, through a cooperative agreement, set up work activity centers in an attempt to provide improved services to the severely mentally retarded of the state.

The work activity center program began with two centers, one in Anderson and one in Rock Hill, in 1973, with initial funding under the Developmental Disabilities Act. All are now funded jointly by Vocational Rehabilitation and the Department of Mental Retardation. Centers are now in operation in Greenwood, Aiken, Orangeburg, Walterboro, Conway, Florence and Sumter as well. Future plans provide for centers in all of the thirteen vocational rehabilitation centers in the state.

Services offered in these projects include evaluation, personal and social adjustment, work adjustment, on-the-job training, as well as daily living classes.

The services offered in the program are designed to take the severely mentally retarded out of institutions and provide



them with the training they need in order to return to society. These citizens will, hopefully, be able to return to the community and earn a livelihood as a result of the program. Because of the severity of their disability, these handicapped people usually require a longer transition period before their employment.

The work activity centers served 268 severely mentally retarded clients during fiscal year 1975-76.

### **Mentally Retarded**

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department also provides services to the severely mentally retarded in three state institutions. These services are geared to benefit the mentally retarded who need residential types of services rather than local community services. These are carried out in cooperation with the South Carolina Department of Mental Retardation.

Services provided to these clients include vocational evaluation, adjustment, community resident placement, job placement, training and follow-up services to ensure that the client is progressing well in his new lifestyle.

Within the last few years, the Vocational Rehabilitation Department and the Department of Mental Retardation have developed community residences within the state for those clients being transferred from institutions into competitive employment. This program has allowed for an extension of vocational rehabilitation services within the Vocational Rehabilitation units at the institutions.

The Vocational Rehabilitation Unit at Whitten Village is now serving clients from the institution population. Midlands Center is considered the statewide facility, whereby clients are referred by Vocational Rehabilitation counselors in other areas for an individualized comprehensive program of services to meet the individual needs of the clients. At Coastal Center, the Vocational Rehabilitation unit is providing services to the institutional population as well as reaching the communities through several public schools. This attempt has allowed for a delivery of services that would otherwise have

been unavailable for the retarded citizens in that area of the state.

During fiscal year 1975-76, there were 12,213 clients with the disability of mental retardation, of whom 1,795 were closed as successfully rehabilitated.

### **CETA Program**

During fiscal year 1975-76, the Vocational Rehabilitation Department was one of three major sub-contractors for CETA programs in South Carolina, along with Job Services and Technical Education.

The program is funded through the Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA) under the United States Department of Labor. It is designed to provide manpower training and other services to assist the unemployed, the underemployed and the disadvantaged population. The goal of the program is to allow these individuals to be better prepared to enter the labor market.

It has been found that a number of these individuals under the CETA program also have mental and physical disabilities, for which Vocational Rehabilitation experience is most appropriate.

Full-time Vocational Rehabilitation counselors serve CETA enrollees, all of whom receive basic medical evaluation from Vocational Rehabilitation. In addition ten assessment centers were established for the purpose of ascertaining the CETA enrollees' vocational potential. Two motorized units with sophisticated evaluation equipment provide evaluation services to clients in remote areas of the state. Four adjustment programs were implemented to serve CETA enrollees who need specialized services before pursuing further CETA functions.

Approximately \$900,000 was made available to Vocational Rehabilitation for services and equipment through the CETA program, enabling the department to provide services to more than 5,000 participants.



## **Alcohol and Drug Abuse**

During the 1975-76 fiscal year, Vocational Rehabilitation served 2,670 clients handicapped by alcohol abuse and 739 clients handicapped by drug abuse. 498 alcoholics and 158 drug abusers were successfully rehabilitated.

Two treatment centers administered by Vocational Rehabilitation provide in-patient therapy to the alcoholic. Palmetto Center in Florence served 473 residents this past year. Holmesview Center, located in Greenville, served 244. Both centers support the referring Vocational Rehabilitation field counselors who remain responsible for follow-up services once the client returns to his home community.

Vocational Rehabilitation counselors and mental health counselors utilize the Earle E. Morris Alcohol and Drug Abuse Center for clients needing inpatient therapy for the misuse of drugs. A Vocational Rehabilitation unit at the center provides clients a comprehensive vocational assessment plus personal and social adjustment services.

In July, 1975, the Counseling and Referral Elective (C.A.R.E.) program began its third year of operation. Operated by Vocational Rehabilitation, this program assists troubled state employees whose work performance is affected by alcohol or other problems. During this past fiscal year, 114 state employee referrals received services. State employees are either referred by their agencies or can be self-referred.

In this last fiscal year, the Palmetto Center Community Seminar program trained 16 community teams. This training effort, funded by NIAAA, provides local community professional and lay persons training in the dynamics of the disease of alcoholism and the importance of interagency involvement in the delivery of services at the community level.

## **Beneficiary Rehabilitation Program—Trust Fund**

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department has made continuous progress in serving the Social Security Disability Beneficiary since the inception of the Trust Fund Program in 1965.

Congress amended the Social Security Act at that time by

setting up a trust fund which amounted to 1% of all money that was being paid out to disability beneficiaries, to be set aside for 100% allocation to state vocational rehabilitation agencies for the purpose of providing services to selected beneficiaries who meet special selection criteria.

The criteria which the trust fund counselor uses are aimed toward the rehabilitation of the selected beneficiary to a level of medical improvement and/or a level of income which would result in the beneficiary no longer being eligible for, and in need of social security disability benefits. The accomplishment of these objectives resulted in Congress increasing Trust Fund Program allocations effective July 1, 1973, to 1½% of benefits paid out. This increase in funds made it possible for South Carolina to add more counselors, offering full time Trust Fund coverage over the entire state with 15 counselors now serving South Carolina. They work only with the Social Security Disability Beneficiary.

A person is considered eligible for Disability Social Security Benefits if he is found to have a severe impairment which prevents work and which has lasted or is expected to last for 12 months or longer. The beneficiary who is found to meet special Trust Fund Selection Criteria, does not have to meet economic need requirements to receive vocational rehabilitation services provided from Trust Funds. The beneficiary whose disability is permanent and cannot be improved will receive a nine-month trial work period if he is able to find a work situation that is suited for one with limitations imposed by such a disability. At the end of the nine months of work, the client will be reevaluated and a decision will be made concerning his ability to continue work. If it is determined that the beneficiary is able to do substantial gainful work, he will be given three additional months of benefits, or a total of 12 months, then will be terminated.

Should he later become unable to continue employment, immediate resumption of benefits will be provided. These incentives give a beneficiary every opportunity to attempt to return to work no matter how severe the limitations are. If the beneficiary recovers medically the trial work period does not apply.

During fiscal year 1975-76 South Carolina rehabilitated



291 Social Security beneficiaries who met special selection criteria. Previous follow-up studies show that at least 50% of those beneficiaries closed as successfully rehabilitated became terminated from the Social Security rolls as a result of the services provided by the Trust Fund program.

### **Supplemental Security Income Program**

Beginning on January 1, 1974, the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department initiated a new program under an agreement with the federal government.

The Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Program went into effect at that time, with the state no longer giving welfare assistance to the needy aged, blind and disabled. Prior to this time, the South Carolina Department of Social Services provided payments to this group.

Under the new program the federal government assumed the responsibility of payments to the needy aged, blind and disabled, with the Disability Determination Division—a division of the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department—charged with the responsibility of making the decision on eligibility for the disabled in South Carolina.

Since the beginning of this program a number of these “disabled” people have been referred to the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department for services. The result of the services provided was that some of these “disabled” were returned to gainful employment.

SSI payments are made to the disabled based on economic need. When clients are placed in employment and they begin to earn a salary, their economic situation changes, and payments to these clients are adjusted accordingly. The goal of the Vocational Rehabilitation Department is to reduce or remove SSI payments to clients. Clients who are placed in employment are often able to earn a salary greater than the SSI benefits which they would receive.

The SSI Program provides for a nine month trial work period. During this period, barring medical recovery, a determination as to the individual's capacity to engage in Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA) will be deferred until

the end of the work period. An SSI recipient's earnings during a trial work period is counted in computing the payment level. Another rehabilitation incentive is the "Self Support Plan"—any income and/or resources necessary to fulfilling an approved "Self Support Plan" may be disregarded in computing payment amounts.

There are eleven SSI specialty counselors in the state at this time, but all areas of the state are served by these counselors. They are located in Anderson, Greenville, Spartanburg, Rock Hill, Conway, Florence, Sumter, Columbia, Aiken, Charleston and Walterboro.

During fiscal year 1975-76, the Department rehabilitated 163 Supplemental Security Income recipients who met special selection criteria. At least 60% of these recipients closed as successfully rehabilitated met substantial gainful activity requirements and will be terminated from the SSI rolls as a result of the services provided by the Supplemental Security Income Program.

#### **Disabled Public Offenders**

Last year the Department served 9,778 public offenders and rehabilitated 1,506. It is now working with the public offender and within institutions and providing evaluation, counseling, placement and follow-up.

The Department recognizes that the current figures represent only a small number of disabled public offenders who are eligible for vocational rehabilitation services. However, the public offender project is attempting to develop resources in those areas of the state where the South Carolina Department of Corrections is moving toward the concept of regionalization. As more local correctional facilities are placed under supervision of the state, this will allow for more public offenders to be considered for vocational rehabilitation services.

At present, the Department of Corrections has seven work release centers and two pre-release centers. Vocational Rehabilitation should be included within these centers and for additional follow-up services after the clients leave the institutions to return to their communities. The vocational rehabili-



tation counselor plays an integral part in assisting the public offender in his reintegration into the community setting.

With the Vocational Rehabilitation services provided while the public offender is incarcerated and the services provided after his release, the disabled public offender receives the necessary reinforcement to ensure his successful rehabilitation.

The follow-up program for these clients is presently being carried by nine counselors located in strategic areas in the state, serving primarily the clients who are transferred to them from the institutions.

#### **Title XX**

An agreement was signed with the Department of Social Services for the Vocational Rehabilitation Department to provide a series of eight services to family court referrals, public assistance recipients, program dropouts and other disabled youth throughout the ten planning regions of the state. The impact objective of these services is to help individuals in these target groups to develop their physical and mental abilities and their vocational and social skills to such an extent that they are able to obtain employment and thus eliminate, reduce or prevent their dependency.

Approximately 60% of the Title XX clients served have been AFDC recipients with the remainder meeting the income eligibility criteria for services under Title XX. Vocational Rehabilitation services for these target groups were recommended as a priority by most of the Regional Planning Councils.

Clients selected for services under Title XX are mostly youthful individuals, economically dependent, from low-income families, who require multiple services, particularly a comprehensive evaluation, vocational and personal adjustment training and extensive counseling to prepare them for entry into the world of work. Many of them require considerable time to work through problems which prevent their full participation in the program. In addition, those with a high mental or emotional component to their disability require additional time and funds to develop an individualized pro-

gram to meet their needs. By obtaining Title XX federal funds to serve these clients, it has allowed the agency to maintain its level of service to such clients rather than curtailing programs for individuals in these target groups.

With the \$332,357 made available to Vocational Rehabilitation during the last nine months of the 1975-76 fiscal year, on-going rehabilitation services were provided to an average of 1200 clients per month.

### **Epilepsy**

A concentrated effort is being made through the Epilepsy Rehabilitation Facility at the Medical University Hospital in Charleston to provide the necessary services for epileptic clients. The facility was set up as a result of a grant through the Developmental Disabilities Act, specifically for these clients who need a well-coordinated delivery of services, usually for a longer period of time than many other rehabilitation clients. A major portion of their rehabilitation deals with educating the client and his family on the nature of epilepsy.

Last year 465 clients received services through the facility at the Medical University. This number includes pediatric patients and clients from other areas of the state who are served by rehabilitation counselors in their home communities as well as 119 clients served by a full-time rehabilitation counselor at the facility.

### **Public School and Youth Programs**

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department has an agreement with the State Department of Education and many local school districts throughout the state to provide rehabilitation services to eligible physically and mentally handicapped students in the secondary schools.

The services rendered in this program are the same type provided to many other vocational rehabilitation clients. They include vocationally oriented counseling and guidance, medical and non-medical evaluation to determine the type of work the student will be suited to do upon completion of his formal education.

The Department also cooperates with the Department of



Youth Services and many family courts in developing programs of service for juvenile delinquents. Family court vocational rehabilitation programs have proven particularly successful in those areas in which court personnel and judges work closely with vocational rehabilitation counselors. This program has been used in many areas as an alternative to incarceration.

A program of services is also available for those students who drop out of school before they reach a training state or employment readiness. These individuals may be returned to school, placed in on-the-job training, or placed in some specialized vocational training program in keeping with their abilities and interests.

During fiscal year 1975-76 there were 11,607 mentally and physically handicapped students served through the school programs, of whom 1,603 were successfully rehabilitated. The family court program rehabilitated 352 of the 3,638 clients which it served during last fiscal year.

There are 25 VR-PS programs located in the following areas: Anderson, Campobello, Chester, Cherokee, Charleston, Columbia, Conway, Dentsville, Dillon, Fairfield, Florence, Graniteville, Greenwood, Kershaw, Kingstree, Lancaster, Lexington, Newberry, Oconee, Orangeburg, Pickens, Rock Hill, Sumter, Union and York.

Family Court programs are operating in 15 locations. They are: Anderson, Aiken, Charleston, Columbia, Florence, Beaufort, Greenville, Conway, Greenwood, Orangeburg, Rock Hill, Spartanburg, Laurens, Lancaster and Sumter.

#### **Disability Determination Division**

The Disability Determination Division has the responsibility for processing claims for Disability Benefits filed under the provisions of the Social Security Act of 1954 and under the Supplemental Security Income program which went into effect January 1, 1974. Under both of the programs, benefits may be paid to disabled individuals who are unable to engage in substantial gainful activity by reason of their medical

impairments. The Disability Division is charged with the responsibility for ensuring that sound medical evidence is obtained and that the decision to allow or deny benefits meets all of the requirements of the Social Security Regulations and the law.

The disability decision is made by professional Disability Examiners in cooperation with full time Medical Consultants on the staff of the Division. The Disability Determination Division of the Vocational Rehabilitation Department currently has 144 full-time and 4 part-time staff members. All of the professional personnel are trained in the evaluation of medical and vocational factors and in screening all claims to determine if the claimant has rehabilitation potential, regardless of whether or not benefits are allowed.

During the period covered by fiscal year 1975-76, the South Carolina Disability Determination Division processed 51,042 claims for disability benefits. Of the claims processed, approximately 45% were allowed. As of June, 1975 there were 34,870 recipients of disability benefits under the Supplemental Security Income provisions. Monthly benefits for these individuals were \$3,853,098.00. Under the Social Security program, an additional 41,532 disabled workers received \$8,528,544.00 monthly benefits. The figures for the Social Security program (December, 1975) show that there were also 27,949 dependents of the workers receiving monthly benefits of \$1,705,708.00. In addition to the actual benefit amounts being paid to South Carolinians, the program resulted in expenditures of \$786,662.00 for medical services in the state during the last fiscal year.

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department is also proud to note that the Disability Determination Division was awarded a citation for outstanding performance by the Bureau of Disability Insurance of the Social Security Administration during the past year.

During fiscal year 1975-76, 481 benefit recipients, who had been referred to Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors for services, were successfully rehabilitated. Not only does this



figure represent a substantial savings in government spending to individuals who would otherwise be dependent on society for livelihood, but these individuals have gained personal satisfaction as a result of their re-entry into the mainstream of society.

### THE COST OF REHABILITATION

Supporting unemployed disabled persons is a continuous cost year after year. The cost for rehabilitation per client was only \$2,067 last year—only a fraction of the annual cost per case at many state institutions such as prisons, hospitals and treatment centers.

### ANNUAL EXPENSE

The total annual expenditures by the Vocational Rehabilitation Department last year was \$24,595,672. It takes 5.3 years for the rehabilitant to repay the state and federal governments the cost of rehabilitation through annual taxes. The 11,900 rehabilitants last year will pay an estimated \$3,019,506 in federal income taxes; \$366,900 in state income taxes and \$1,223,240 in state sales tax.

Of the total annual expenditures 95.8%, or \$23,554,400 went for case services. This involves counseling and placement of the clients. This expenditure was used for professional and clerical salaries, travel, communications, supplies, rent, office maintenance and equipment. The remainder, \$1,041,272, or 4.2%, was spent on administration in Vocational Rehabilitation. This includes administrative and clerical salaries, travel, communications, supplies, public information, rent and office maintenance and equipment. The case services monies are also spent on diagnostic procedures, surgery, treatment, prosthetic appliances, hospitalization and convalescent care, training, training materials, maintenance and transportation, tools and equipment, and licenses. These figures do not include expenditures for the Disability Determination Division program in South Carolina during fiscal year 1975-76.

A comparison of expenditures for fiscal year 1974-75 and 1975-76 shows:

	FY 1974-75	FY 1975-76
Administration	3.4% or \$798,708	4.2% or \$1,041,272
General Rehabilitation	50.7% or \$11,927,469	45.6% or \$11,215,860
Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program	1.0% or \$225,563	1.2% or \$284,164
Evaluation and Training Facilities	15.0% or \$3,530,598	15.7% or \$3,849,717
Alcoholic Center (Palmetto)	2.1% or \$497,474	2.2% or \$544,698
Cooperative Public School Programs	12.4% or \$2,919,690	12.0% or \$2,944,665
Interagency Projects (Special Grants)	15.3% or \$3,578,652	17.1% or \$4,216,270
Workshop Productions	.1% or \$15,819	2.0% or \$499,026
Total Operating Expense	\$23,493,973	\$24,595,672
Disability Determination Division	\$2,958,621	\$3,372,338
Capitol Improvements	\$847,240	\$2,015,476
Grand Total Expenditures	\$27,299,834	\$29,983,486

### EARNINGS AND OCCUPATIONS OF THE REHABILITANTS

The average weekly earnings of the rehabilitants increased 453.6% as a result of rehabilitation services—from an average of \$13.69 per week per client before rehabilitation to \$75.80 per week per client after rehabilitation.

These rehabilitants are working at various jobs now. 524 are working in farming and related occupations; 2,074 are working in special occupations; 2,643 in service occupations; 4,702 in industrial occupations; 1,222 in clerical and sales and 735 in professional, technical and managerial occupations.



## PUBLICATIONS BY THE DEPARTMENT

Annual Report

Breakthrough—A pictorial, graphic and factual review of each fiscal year

New Horizons—A newsletter

From Tax User to Tax Payer

Rehabilitation, The Third Phase of Medicine

Counseling and Referral Elective (CARE)

Palmetto Center

Holmesview Alcoholic Center

Supplemental Security Income

Deafness: A New Approach; A Brighter Tomorrow

Evaluation and Training Center for Adult Deaf

Has Disability Got You Down?

